

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 00975 212253Z

70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 SP-02 AID-05 OMB-01 MC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4677

INFO SECDEF WASHDC/ISA/DSAA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR ECJ4/7 VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0975

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MO, US

SUBJECT: FAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM MOROCCO

REF: CHMUSLO RABAT MOROCCO 191515Z FEB 75

1. THIS AFTERNOON AT ABOUT 1615 HOURS LOCAL TIME COLONEL MOHAMED ACHAHBAR, SECRETARY GENERAL, ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, SIGNED BULK OF OUTSTANDING LETTERS OF OFFER FOR U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUBJECT REFTEL AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES. (A FEW LETTERS OF OFFER MAY HAVE BEEN SIGNED EARLIER AND SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNED SINCE GOM HAS DECIDED TO PROCURE SOME EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY FROM COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS. DETAILS FOLLOW IN MUSLO MESSAGE.) MUSLO CHIEF, COLONEL SANDERS, PRESENT AT SIGNING.

2. AS REFTEL SUGGESTED, WE HAD EXPECTED SIGNING TO TAKE PLACE SOMEWHAT EARLIER. REASONS FOR DELAY NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR AT THIS JUNCTURE, BUT WE BELIEVE THEY PROBABLY RELATED TO KING'S CONVALESCENCE AND RELATIVE TEMPORARY INACCESSIBILITY. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, IT SEEMS THERE WERE SOME LAST MINUTE QUESTIONS RAISED WITHIN GOM BY VARIOUS MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN MORE QUICKLY RESOLVED HAD KING BEEN PLAYING MORE ACTIVE ROLE. AT ANY RATE, HIS FIRM INTENTION, AS HE HAS

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PAGE 02 RABAT 00975 212253Z

REPEATEDLY CONVEYED IT TO ME, TO UNDERTAKE A MODERNIZATION

PROGRAM BASED ON AMERICAN EQUIPMENT, HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED
IN WRITING BY HIS AGENTS.

3. ALL INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT.

4. WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE WHAT WE REALIZE WERE THE EXCEPTIONAL
EFFORTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS THAT HAVE MADE THIS
OUTCOME POSSIBLE.

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